

ROGER MONTOYA

SAN FRANCISCO STREET GALLERY

Born and raised in the Española Valley just north of Santa Fe, Roger Montoya paints the landscapes that shaped his life. His work celebrates northern New Mexico through vintage trucks, quiet country roads, weathered adobe villages, and open fields filled with light. More than nostalgic scenes, his paintings are reflections of memory, resilience, and the enduring beauty found in everyday places. Rich color, expressive brushwork, and a deep affection for his homeland invite viewers to experience the spirit of New Mexico through his eyes.

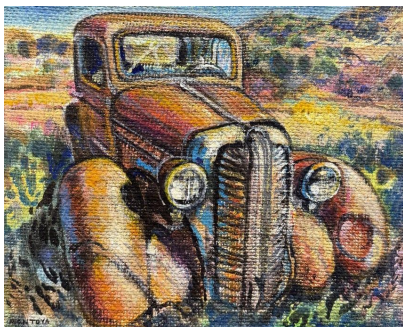
Roger's artistic path has been anything but conventional. After studying at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center in New York, apprenticing with the Paul Taylor Dance Company, and performing professionally with Parsons Dance, he returned home believing that art could do more than inspire-it could heal. That conviction became the foundation of his life's work and continues to influence every canvas he creates.

In 2008, Roger co-founded Moving Arts Española, a nonprofit dedicated to enriching the lives of young people through the arts. Guided by his philosophy that "Art is Medicine," he has spent decades providing creative opportunities, mentorship, and hope to thousands of children and families throughout northern New Mexico. His passion for education also led him to establish arts programs in local public schools, help launch La Tierra Montessori School for the Arts and Sciences, and mentor emerging artists across the state.

Roger's commitment to service eventually carried him to the New Mexico House of Representatives, where he became the state's first openly gay and HIV-positive legislator. Throughout his career, he has remained a passionate advocate for health equity, education, and underserved communities, drawing upon his own life experiences with compassion, humility, and purpose.

Roger's extraordinary contributions have earned national recognition, including being named a Top 10 CNN Hero and receiving honors from Dance Magazine for his impact on arts education. Yet his greatest inspiration has always been the place he calls home. Through every painting, Roger preserves the landscapes, memories, and quiet moments that define northern New Mexico, inviting others to discover the beauty, history, and humanity woven into its everyday life.

Works (7)



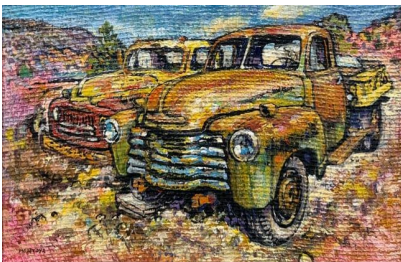
Roger Montoya - 1



Roger Montoya - 2



Roger Montoya - 3



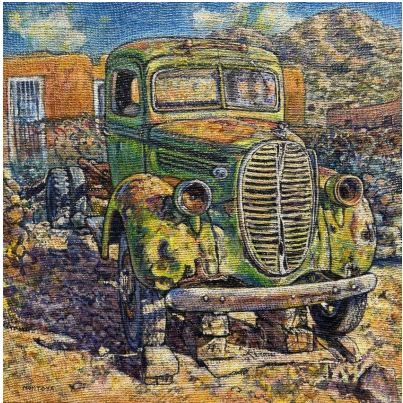
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Roger Montoya - 6



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